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With a history dating back to the beginnings of tourism here, the building is rich in memories. From the time it started as a luncheonette in 1920 right up to the present, it has remained most famous for shoo-fly pie, served warm with whipped cream. The Dutch Haven shoo-fly pie has even been mentioned in a *TIME* magazine article.

Today, as soon as you walk in, you'll be offered a free sample of that same delicious, gooey pie. Some 40,000 pies are baked

annually, using the original (secret) recipe. Visitors are still encouraged to "Take one for yourself or send one to someone nice." You can buy and ship pies home at the store or at their "online shop," where you'll find other local crafts as well.

Yes, Dutch Haven is much more than pies, with over 10,000 unique gift items, foods, and collectibles. Some of the most popular are jams, jellies, and canned goods,

noodles, Amish pine furniture and cedar chests, hex signs, quilted spice mats, Amish straw hats, jewelry and gemstones, Dutch Delft tiles, Amish dolls, onyx and soapstone animals, trivets, metal stars, Tiffany lamps, Amish romance novels, framed prints, plenty of T-shirts and postcards, and a tremendous selection of Amish-made outdoor furniture. It's an eclectic mix, to say the least.

As you explore, you'll discover lots of other "surprises" around every corner. Expect the unexpected! And don't forget the Amish-style root beer in the barrel.

Remember, Dutch Haven is open 7 days a week, 9AM-9PM and. For more info about this Lancaster County landmark, call 717.687.0111. Look forward to your free sample when you walk in under the welcoming arms of the windmill...for this truly is the place that made shoo-fly pie famous. 





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THE MAGIC-LANTERN

By Randy Wothke

As summer starts to hit its stride, I was pondering the age old question...."What do you do for fun this time of year?" Of course, there are trips to the beach, swimming, going shopping, visiting friends.....all things that are real possibilities, but all things that have been done over and over. What's new to enjoy in Amish Country?

At a recent cookout with friends and family, I was told about a show that several of the folks had gone to see. They raved about it, and how much fun and interesting it was. It was The Magic Lantern Show at Plain & Fancy Farm, an unusual experience presented in the theater there.

After hearing their description of the show, I checked out the information at the website, but I wanted to know more. So I contacted the theater and set-up an interview with the Artistic Director, the person in charge of the show. His name is Mark Sullivan, and he graciously granted my interview request.



ACN – So Mark, thanks for seeing me! I was hoping you could tell me more about your shows.

MS – Sure! We present unique performances using a very rare antique Magic Lantern from the late 1800's, and hand-painted images from the same time period. It is a mixture of storytelling, comedy, drama, music, and special effects that create a one-of-a-kind entertainment. The show that we are producing right now is called "This Is My Country!" It's a magical and semi-autobiographical look at the birth of our country. We follow the generations of one family through the 1920's.

EVERYTHING



ACN – Can you elaborate on what a Magic Lantern Show is?

MS – I sure can. Before there were movies, there was the Magic Lantern. It was the most important step before motion pictures. Images were projected on a big screen with narration and music to create what was, in essence, a movie. Many of the images were animated with moving parts, special effects the Victorian audiences loved. It was massively popular, and there were shows being presented all the time around the world, with many "Showmen" traveling from town to town offering performances.

ACN – That's so amazing. Candidly, I didn't know anything about a Magic Lantern.

MS – Oh, I'm not surprised. Magic Lanterns were basically forgotten about with the advent of motion pictures, just as people tended to forget about silent movies with the advent of "talkies." We are, in fact, the first permanent Magic Lantern Theater in the world in well over 100 years.

ACN – Wow! So what else can you tell me about your show?

MS – We have worked hard to create a truly fun and involving entertainment event. Months were spent creating the script,

SHOW

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Tuesday–Saturday Night 7PM – No Show August 1st
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assembling the images, and recording the music. In fact, the music was recorded by local musicians specifically for this show. The music was even in the Grammy nomination process. Although it didn't make it into the top five in the group from which that Grammy award category is picked, we are extremely proud of its nomination. We even have CDs available for purchase.

Our show is performed by "Professor Phineas T. Firefly" who, like the Showmen of 150 years ago, weaves his spell for about an hour and a half. It begins with a fun trivia contest, followed by the show itself, and finally a

short question and answer period. Our guests like to learn more about the period, the lantern, and even the good Professor himself, so we give them the opportunity after the show.

And I forgot to mention that there are also special effects throughout the show...cannon's roar and "fireworks" explode overhead, along with atmospheric lighting. It is quite the spectacle!

ACN – This sounds amazing! When does the show run?

MS – The show is presented every Tuesday through Saturday night at 7PM. We open July 3rd and run through September 4th. We are

also performing special shows on September 3rd and 4th.

ACN – Mark, thank you for your time! Is there anything else you would like to add?

MS – I would just like to say that discount tickets are available on our website at www.MagicLanternTheater.com. And also, let your readers know that we have a Christmas Magic Lantern Show as well that is extremely popular. It starts Black Friday and runs through New Year's Eve. But for the summer months of July and August, it's all about celebrating America! 🇺🇸

Mark Sullivan as "Professor Phineas T. Firefly" in the patriotic extravaganza "This is My Country" at The Magic Lantern Show at the Amish Experience Theater, Bird-in-Hand, PA.

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Famous Shoo Pie at Dutch Haven

By Brad Igou

When you think of Lancaster County, you probably think of the Pennsylvania Dutch. The word “Dutch” does not refer to people who came here from Holland, but from Germany. The Amish and Mennonites are just part of this group known as the Pennsylvania Dutch. Wonderful crafts and foods emerged from this unique culture. Over time, the very “Dutch” shoo-fly pie became the most famous sweet in all of “Amish Country.”



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Back in 1946, Lancaster and its foods were not known all over the world as they are today. But travelers passing through the area soon discovered a delicious shoofly pie at a restaurant on Route 30, not far from Paradise. The restaurant's revolving wind-mill soon made it hard to miss while driving along the highway, and the shoo-fly pie

proved difficult to pass up for anyone who stepped inside.

Soon the pies and the landmark building became inseparable, and when TIME magazine featured the pies in a feature story, Dutch Haven's shoo-fly pies became famous from coast to coast. For years, anyone taking





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a shoo-fly pie to New York to join the crowds outside the NBC-TV "Today Show" was likely to be singled out for special recognition.

Loyal customers have been buying shoo-fly pies at Dutch Haven for over half a century, with some 40,000 pies sold each year! No wonder that the Dutch Haven secret recipe is now universally claimed as the key in making "America's Best Shoo-Fly Pie."

And how "sweet" it is that all you have to do is walk through the door and you are welcomed with a free sample! But the method to the Dutch Haven madness is that when the delectable pie touches the lips of eager visitors, sales are sure to follow.

The pies are great take-home gifts since they "keep" well for several days, or you can ship a "shoofly" via UPS either in-store or online. Just warm up a slice at home, put a little whipped cream on top, and you'll be transported back to Amish Country!

But there is much more to Dutch Haven nowadays than just pies. The DH building is home to Route 30's largest Amish craft store. Primitive Amish pine furniture and cedar chests, hex signs, onyx and soapstone animals, T-shirts, and Amish-made outdoor furniture are just a few of the eclectic mix of items you'll discover. Dutch Haven, the "place that made shoo-fly pie famous," is just two miles east of the Rockvale Outlets and Route 896, at 2857-A Lincoln Highway East, Ronks. Tel. 717-687-0111, www.dutchhaven.com. And while many craft stores close at 5:00 pm in these parts, Dutch Haven is open seven days from 9am to 9pm. With all that Dutch Haven has to offer, maybe they should just change the name to "Dutch Heaven." Drop in and find out for yourself! 

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STRASBURG – TRAINS & HERITAGE



A ride on the historic Strasburg Rail Road, pulled by an authentic steam locomotive, is a "must do" for visitors to Amish Country. Photo Credit: Donna Gingrich

Named for the city in France, Strasburg is often referred to as "Train Town." In the 1700's, the village was on major commercial wagon routes. In the 1850's, a rail line connecting it with the Philadelphia and Columbia main line near Paradise helped keep the town's commerce active. And a hundred years later, to save the steam locomotives from demise, a group of local enthusiasts turned to passengers and visitors to keep America's oldest short-line running as the now famous Strasburg Rail Road. Not surprisingly, Strasburg is now home to several wonderful train related attractions. All aboard! 🚂

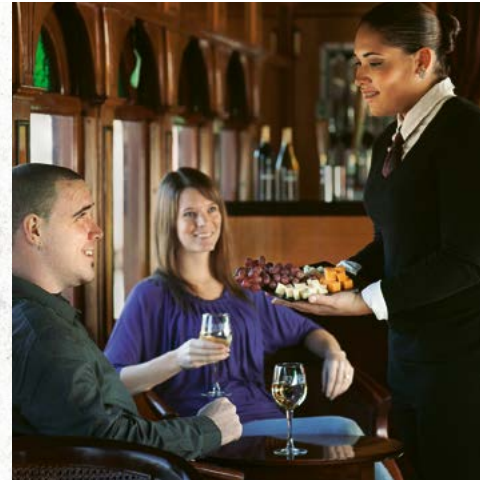
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A visit to Strasburg Rail Road is anything but ordinary. In fact, there's no other place in Lancaster County where you can literally take a Victorian-era, steam-powered train ride right through the heart of Pennsylvania Dutch Country.

At Strasburg Rail Road, you truly travel to Paradise and back as you chug through more than 2,500 acres of breathtaking farmland and the backyards of our Amish neighbors. On board it's easy to get lost in the gentle rocking motion of the cars, the sound of the train whistle, the hiss of the steam engine, and the wheels of the mighty iron horse making its way down the tracks. From the platform, experience the workings of the locomotive as you watch the rods and pistons slide back and forth to make the train move.

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stained glass, a mahogany bar, exquisite woodwork, and delicately painted details.

The First-Class Lounge Car features similar finery and soft, green velvet upholstered captain's chairs that swivel for a 360-degree view. First-class passengers can relax with a glass of wine or beer as you travel down the tracks. Other beverages and snacks are also available for purchase.

Highlights of the picturesque 45-minute, round-trip ride from East Strasburg Passenger Station to Paradise, PA, include views of rolling fields, farms, and Amish homesteads; the occasional horse-drawn Amish buggy; happenings at Groff's Grove picnic area and Cherry Crest Adventure Farm; and a pass by the oldest cemetery in Lancaster County. You can make a day out of it by packing a picnic lunch and watch as the trains travel past. But, don't forget to catch one of the returning trains back to the station.

Known as the nation's oldest short-line railroad, Strasburg Rail Road is also a real working railroad, still hauling freight today. Inside the on-site mechanical shop, skilled hands beautifully restore and renovate antique wooden passenger cars for the railroad and other railroads across the country. Tours of the mechanical shop are offered daily at noon.

During your visit, enjoy the many other added attractions like a ride aboard the Pint-sized Pufferbelly (a real miniature steam train), a hand-powered pump car, and cranky cars for young engineers. For those who like to shop, there are fun souvenirs and food in

the Trackside Café. So, steam up your summer with a visit to the Strasburg Rail Road. For more information visit StrasburgRailroad.com or call 1-866-725-9666. 

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Quilts Are a Tradition at Smucker's

By Brad Igou



As you wander about the Amish farmlands, you'll no doubt come across quite a few Amish quilt shops. One of my favorites, and worth your seeking out, is Smucker's Quilts. You can find Rachel's shop down a long picturesque lane, just outside New Holland, north of Route 23, at 117 N. Groffdale Road. With the help of her mother-in-law, Rachel Smucker opened her shop almost 20 years ago in a small storage barn. She quickly outgrew the barn and moved the shop into the basement of her farmhouse, which occasionally doubled as the room where church was held when it was her family's "turn." When the basement was needed for her district's Amish church service, Rachel had to clear away her merchandise and replace it with benches.

As word of mouth brought more and more customers, a spacious, beautiful shop was built next to the homestead, and now there is plenty of room to display her merchandise, which includes an amazing number of quilts in a variety of patterns, colors, and sizes, including king size.

Rachel often chooses colors and orders the fabrics for the quilts. The quilting is then done by one of approximately 40 to 50 local Amish and Mennonite ladies who do work for her. She refers to the production of the quilts as "a sharing thing," and happily adds that "quilting gives a lot of ladies jobs."

You'll also find the now popular quillows, which are quilted lap throws that fold up into pillows, and are an affordable way to purchase a handmade item that is compact, attractive, and useful. There are also spice mats, handbags, and Amish hats and clothing, among many other items.

You'll find competitive prices, and you can even pay for your purchase with Visa or Mastercard. The shop is usually open every day but Sunday, from 8 AM to 5 PM, but call 717.656.8730 to be sure. I am quite sure that you'll enjoy both your visit and the drive in the countryside that takes you there! 

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The Amish in Their Own Words

Vol. 2 – Part 10 • • •

by Brad Igou

“Who Diggeth a Pit”

“Where is my coat?” asked my twelve-year-old sister, sounding slightly distressed. It was a cool spring morning, chore time on our farm.

“It’s right where you left it, of course,” I retorted. “I saw it out by the garden yesterday afternoon.

“Oh, yes, now I remember,” frowned Lucy. “But why didn’t you bring it in? It’s going to be wet with dew.”

“I figured you’re old enough to look after your own coat,” I answered. “You have such a bad habit, leaving things where you happen to drop them. It’s time you learn to put them away.”

Lucy reluctantly ran to get her coat. “Leona,” Mom said when she was out the door. “It would be nice if you had brought Lucy’s coat in for her.”

“But when will she learn to put her things away?” I defended myself.

“It’s not many years ago that I tried to break you of the same bad habit,” Mom reminded me. “Sometimes you still forget.”

I knew what Mom said was true, but I considered myself “broken” from leaving things around. Besides, I didn’t think I had ever been as bad as Lucy was.

Time passed swiftly, and one busy day followed the other. Spring turned into summer. On a warm, humid evening I strolled toward the house after the evening chores. It had been a busy day with strawberries to can and hay to be put up. We were glad the hay was in because storm clouds were gathering in the west. A shower of rain would certainly be welcome.

It was then that I saw the pair of black boots under the maple tree in the front yard. “Lucy again,” I thought. “Maybe she will learn a lesson if it rains tonight.”

I felt guilty knowing very well that I should take those boots along in. But for some reason I didn’t. I guess I was still intent on teaching my sister to take better care of her things.

During the night, I awoke and heard the thunder rumbling. Rain was pattering against the window. I immediately thought of the boots in the yard, and again felt that prick in my conscious. I sincerely wished I had brought them in, but it was too late now.

The next morning when Dad called, I was the first one up. I didn’t want to be around when Lucy discovered her boots had been out in the rain. Maybe I could keep the others from finding out I had known they were out there.

I went briskly out into the wash house. My eyes roved over the many pairs of boots. Where were mine? I looked again, this time more closely. Then I spied Lucy’s boots, and suddenly the truth dawned on me. Those boots out under the maple tree were not Lucy’s. They were mine. I then clearly remembered kicking them off yesterday with the intention of putting them away later.

Slowly I trudged out to get my rain-soaked boots, and then I searched for a dry pair to wear. A verse in Proverbs flashed into my mind --- something about who diggeth a pit shall fall therein himself.

I made a resolution then and there. After this, whenever I saw something outside that should be inside, I would bring it in, no matter to whom it belonged.



An Amish boy returns his “team” after chores in the field. Photo credit: Tom Taylor

“The Bad Habit Tree”

Samuel Hertzler

When we lived in Pennsylvania and our boys were yet small, I decided to give them an

Several years ago, I started working on a second volume of THE AMISH IN THEIR OWN WORDS, my book compiled from Amish writings in “Family Life” magazine. Since then, for many reasons, my project of producing “Volume 2” remains in limbo. Nevertheless, because I had begun to read and compile articles, I have decided to share some of them with you again this year as a continuation of my 2017 Amish Series. This month’s selections concern habits, which can be good or bad...

object lesson as to what bad habits can do. One day while working near the woods, I crawled up a young ash tree and bent it over, and tied it down with a piece of barbed wire. I pointed out to the boys that if the tree were released, it would straighten up. The wire was like a bad habit holding the tree down.

We left the tree in that position for about a year. One day we went and cut the wire. The bad habit had done its work. The tree did not spring back. It stayed in the same position in which the bad habit had held it.

To us a bad habit can be lying, stealing, pride, bad language, or any number of other things. Any one of these things is strong enough to hold us down so we cannot grow straight in character.

When we moved to Canada, the tree was still in its bent position. Several years later when we were back on a visit, we walked into the woods to see the tree. What a pleasant surprise! It was still bent, but a new shoot had grown out and was reaching straight up for ten feet or more. In time the new growth will most likely form the main trunk and the tree will keep growing upwards.

That tree taught me two lessons. It showed what a bad habit can do. But it also proved that in spite of a bad habit, there is still a chance of going straight. Wrongs that have been done cannot be undone. But it is still possible to go straight even if damage has been done.

Next Month:

The Working Life

FOOD & FUN ALL AROUND LANCASTER

Eat Well - Drink Together - All at MOUNT HOPE ESTATE

Special to AMISH COUNTRY NEWS

Mount Hope Estate first became known to visitors for its historic mansion and the winery that opened in 1980. Over many years, various weekend events were held, but the most popular grew and grew and grew into the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire, one of the State's top events. The grounds are also host to the Pennsylvania Flavor Fest and the Celtic Fling.

Since the mansion was also adapted for theatrical events at other times of the year, it was only logical that, in addition to wines, crafted beers and restaurants were added.

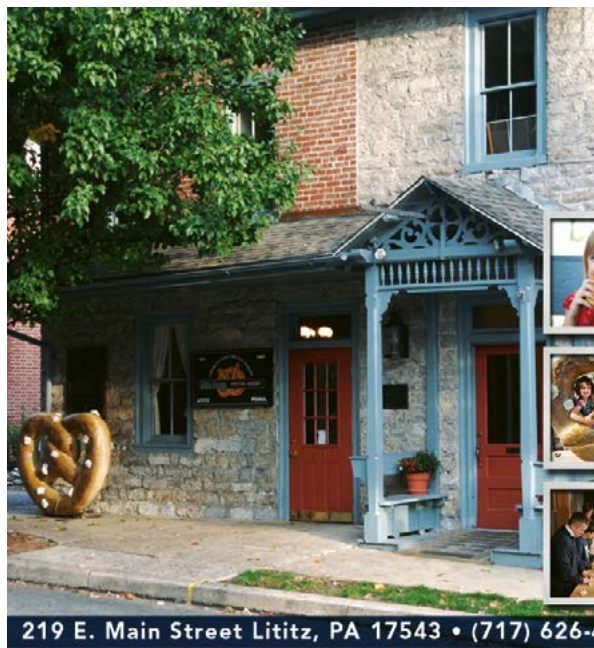
So you just might be surprised to discover all the food and drink that is now available to you. Mount Hope is now a winery, brewery, cidery, distillery, and eatery all in one location. Following is a brief summary of what's new at the Estate....



The new Barn & Barrel Courtyard at Mount Hope Estate.

Barn & Barrel at Mount Hope Estate – The Historic Barn offers the perfect backdrop for private events year-round. Tours of the beverage production and samplings are available. While there get something to eat at the....

Faithful Fowl – Enjoy locally sourced ingredients served with a southern flair, including traditional fried chicken and other “fowl fare.” Roost at the bar and enjoy



Julius Sturgis
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Mount Hope Winery – Informative and fun tours take visitors through processes of creating award-winning wines and meads. Daily complimentary sampling in

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Finally, as a service to our readers, here is a list of Mount Hope entertainment events for your planning this year or next. Note that these are 2018 dates. Visit www.parenfaire.com for details. Various fund-raising events are also planned throughout the year.

- **Murder at Mount Hope Mansion – February 2-April 15**
- **Volksfest – April 28**
- **Brewfest – May 12**
- **Flavorfest – May 26-27**
- **Celtic Fling & Highland Games – June 22-24**
- **Blues & Brews – July 14**
- **Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire – August 4 – October 28**
- **Poe Evermore – November 1-11**
- **Holiday Interactive Dinner Theatre – November 24-December 23**

the Carriage House Wine Shop gives guests a chance discover their own favorite Mount Hope vintage.

Lancaster County Cider – Whether drinking Sweet, Blueberry or a Specialty flavor, you can taste the tradition, creativity and craftsmanship created by a collaboration of the Mount Hope Winery wine maker and

Swashbuckler Brewing Company brew master. The philosophy is simple. Use quality ingredients without artificial fillers to allow the fresh apple flavor to shine in every glass.

Spirits Distillery – Springing from Mount Hope's rich 200-year history the Distillery will resurrect your love for mindfully hand-crafted small batch spirits.

Mount Hope Estate & Winery, the Historic Mount Hope Mansion and the Grounds of the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire are located in Northern Lancaster County, just off exit 266 of the PA Turnpike, 14 miles East of Hershey and 15 miles North of Lancaster. The street address for the grounds is 2775 Lebanon Road Manheim, PA 17545. Tel. 717.665.7021 



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Learn More at PaRenFaire.com

Foremost Expert Answers Common Questions in *Simply Amish*

Special to AMISH COUNTRY NEWS



Visitors to Amish communities sometimes find they have more questions when they return home than they thought they had at the beginning. Very often, once we learn a little about something, more questions are sparked, and we want to dig deeper.

People have many questions about the Amish. Where did the Amish come from? Why do they drive horses and buggies? How are they different from the Mennonites?

Well-known expert Donald B. Kraybill addresses many of these questions in *Simply Amish: An Essential Guide from the Foremost Expert on Amish Life* (Herald Press, June 2018). This hardcover gift book provides insights on Amish life, culture, and faith, and includes rare photography of the Amish, their homes, and families.

Donald B. Kraybill has lived among, studied, written about, and befriended the Amish for many years, and even Amish people read his books to learn more about themselves! Kraybill takes readers on a journey among a people known for their simplicity, rootedness in church and family, and commitment to peaceful living.

Kraybill also explores why this 325-year-old group is actually growing rather than declining in number, a surprise fact for many readers. Importantly, he also separates facts from the fiction perpetuated by television shows, novels, and movies.

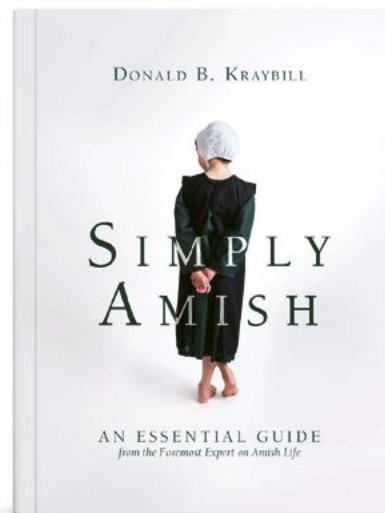
Simply Amish includes maps of where the Amish in North America live and sections on Amish clothing, work, family life, church services, technology, and spirituality.

"If quizzed about Amish life, most people might know that the Amish travel by horse and buggy and wear peculiar dress. But beyond the beards, bonnets, and buggies, many

people know little," writes Kraybill. "I have researched and written about the Amish for more than forty years, and my Amish friends

have graciously helped me to both understand their way of life and ask questions about my own." 

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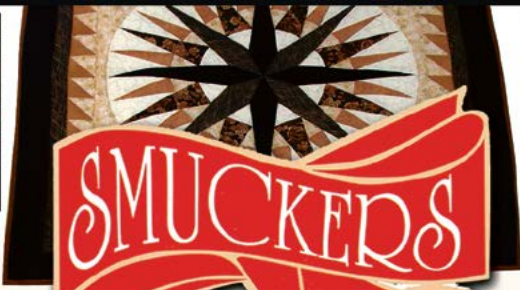
Amish Country...one of the most photographed areas in the world. With so much beauty and variety around us, it's no wonder! Think you've got a great photo? Send it to us! The winner receives free tour and attraction tickets. In addition, you will see your photo in the pages of Amish Country News! Other prizes will also go to the first, second, and third runners-up be judged on quality, color, subject matter, etc.

All submitted photos become property of Amish Country News and the Amish Experience. Photos may also be used in upcoming issues, other publications, and/or for other promotions. Keep in mind that these photos are for publication, cannot be returned, and should depict a scene, aspect, event, or activity typical to Lancaster or the Pennsylvania Dutch Country region.

We accept photos via email, and request no more than 10 photos by the same person be submitted. Each photo filename should contain your name (josmith_amishphoto.jpg.) Please Include your name, title of all photos, address, and phone number. Any details on the location, date, or subject matter of the photograph should also be included.

Send 8x10 photos in high resolution—300 dpi .jpg format to: editor@amishnews.com
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The village founders were German, not Dutch. They were surrounded by English and Welsh Quakers, Episcopalians, a few Swiss-German Mennonites and some Scotch-Irish Presbyterians. The Amish arrived later.

The town was once known as New Design. But in 1802, when a post office was established between Leola and the tavern at Blue Ball, an official name was necessary. There was no dissension to naming the town New Holland. These grateful people remembered how extremely kind the inhabitants of Holland were to them when they fled persecution and sought religious freedom in America.

Today, travelling along Route 23, visitors often find themselves sharing the road with Amish buggies. 

The Amish Speak...

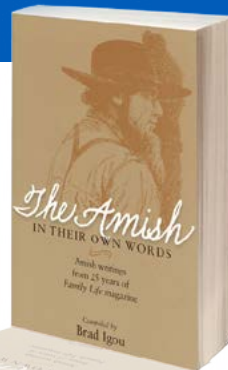
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– Jack Brubaker, *The Scribbler, Lancaster New Era*

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Travel Like Gulliver at the Choo Choo Barn

By Brad Igou



The Choo Choo Barn in Strasburg earns its title as "Traintown, USA" with its 1,700 square foot layout, 150 hand-built animated figures, and 22 trains. This labor of love has thrilled generations of children of all ages since 1961.

Last month, I was in New York City and visited a new attraction called Gulliver's Gate. Essentially, it's the world in miniature, with everything from the Taj Mahal and Jerusalem, to an airport and the Panama Canal. The detail was amazing, and there were quite a few moving parts.

But did you know we've had our own version of Lancaster County in miniature? Drop by the Choo Choo Barn in Strasburg and discover what I mean. This 1700 square foot train display is known nationwide for its outstanding miniature animations, boasting 22 operating model trains, hundreds of feet of O-gauge track (about 6 life-size miles!), and 150 hand-built animated figures and vehicles.

That's a big change from 1961, when the Choo Choo Barn had a 500 square foot display with six trains and six animated figures. Several of the original buildings and features of the display are still in the layout today.

According to Tom Groff, owner of the Choo Choo Barn with his wife Linda, the display is "about 98 percent Groff-built." All but a few of the display's buildings, houses, and miniature Lancaster County attractions were scratch-built by Groff or by his father, George. (That's a big difference between the New York City display, with its small army of builders, and this unique family attraction.)

Just one example of the detail you will see is the Ferris Wheel. "The working miniature wheel took over 100 hours to construct," said Groff. "It actually operates by cable drive the way the real ones do." There's also a fire truck that rushes every five minutes to extinguish a nearby house fire. Visitors will recognize many Lancaster County scenes and attractions. 

The Choo Choo Barn is located on Route 741 in the village of Strasburg, Lancaster County. Strasburg is also home of several attractions to railroad enthusiasts, including The Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania, The Strasburg Railroad, and The National Toy Train Museum. For more information, call 717-687-7911 or go to www.ChooChooBarn.com.



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Over 50 Years in Business



A Bake Shop Off the Beaten Path

By Clinton Martin

If you're lucky, you'll get to follow a buggy to the Bird-in-Hand Bake Shop. That way, you'll have to go slow and appreciate the beautiful farmland around you. The Bird-in-Hand Bake Shop is located at 542 Gibbons Road, after a short drive north on Beechdale Road off the Old Philadelphia Pike (Route 340), the main street through the village of Bird-in-Hand.

Just follow your nose to some of the best cookies and pies in Lancaster County. The wonderful aroma of baking hits you almost before you're through the door, and it only gets better from there!

Through a window behind the counter, you can hear and see mixing and baking and watch trays of baked goods waiting to go into the display cases or sent out to fulfill wholesale orders for several local restaurants. With both an individual and wholesale market for their baked goods, the sweet scents of fresh baked breads and cookies always greets you upon arrival!

This place has the feel of a small-town country store, which it is. The bakery and

gift shop have been family owned and operated since it opened in 1972, with all the baked goods recipes stemming from favorites of "way back when." Locals, as well as visitors, enjoy the tasty treats available six days a week (9 to 5) at the Bird-in-Hand Bake Shop.

Not only can you indulge your sweet tooth with a chocolate whoopie pie, various pies, fresh breads, or a creamy cone of ice cream, but Bird-in-Hand Bake Shop also offers its

visitors a few extras, such as a wonderful play area and petting zoo. Breathe the clean air and enjoy the slow pace of life going by around you.

It may be off the beaten path, but at the Bird-in-Hand Bake Shop, you can truly savor both the tastes and the quiet peacefulness found only in the heart of Lancaster County's Amish Country. Call 717-656-7947 or check out www.bihbakeshop.com. 

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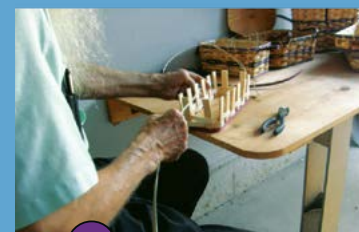
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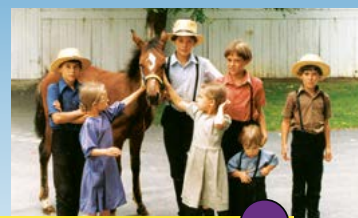
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VILLAGE OF BIRD-IN-HAND

Cornfield Banquet at Bird-in-Hand

By Brad Igou

Last summer I was on my way home when a tractor crossed the road. Okay, so that's not so unusual around here. But then I saw it was pulling three flatbed wagons filled with people sitting on bales of hay! So where were they going? Then I realized, because of my location, they were on their way to the Dinner in a Cornfield offered by the Bird-in-Hand Family Inn & Restaurant.

The Smucker Family, known for their food and lodging as well as unique visitor experiences, are celebrating their 50th Anniversary in Hospitality. Being raised on the farm, the brothers have connections many other restaurants do not. And so it was, a few years ago, that the idea of sharing some of their farm life and food traditions with guests evolved into the idea of a cornfield banquet at the Smucker Family Homestead. And that experience



begins with the hayride ride from the Inn to a field on their farm, where an area has been carved out for a tent, tables, and chairs among the rows of corn!

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I can attest to the fact that this is good home cooking and, if you have never had truly fresh corn on the cob with butter and a little salt, you will think you have died and gone to heaven. Fresh corn is always the highlight of summer eating here in Amish Country, and here you get to eat it right in the cornfield!

My mother also used to make baked lima beans, and they are a refreshing change from the baked beans with which we are all familiar at picnics and cookouts.

And if you don't know what a whoopie pie is, it's high time you find out! But the



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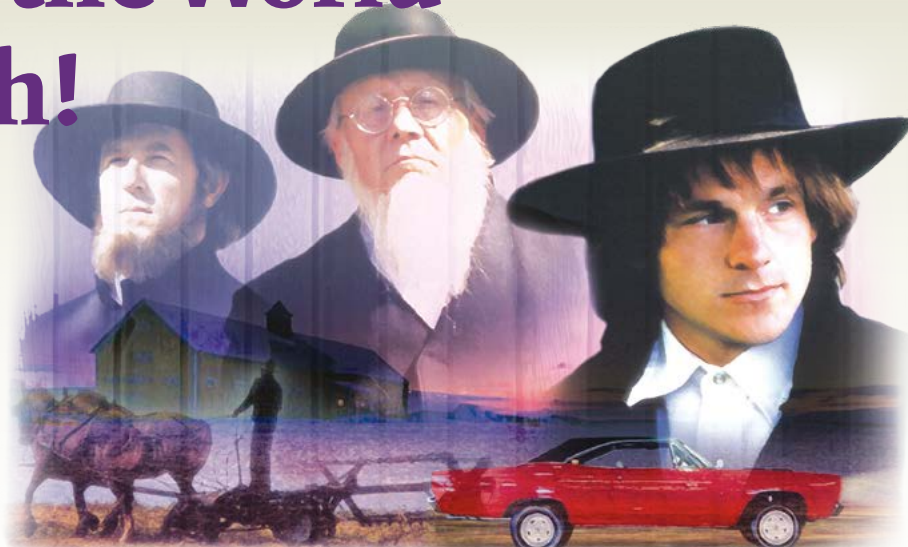
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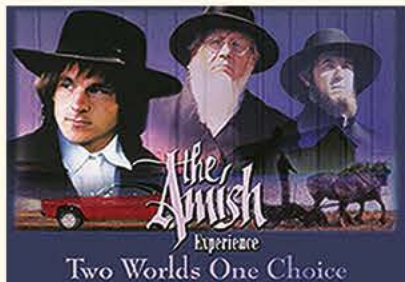


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Amish Quilt shops abound in the farmlands around Intercourse, PA. Photo credit: Charles Rehm



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My Favorite Toy Shop

By Brad Igou

Many years ago, I was driving down a road deep in the countryside and unexpectedly saw a sign for a toy shop. The small building was completely surrounded

by gorgeous farmland. Inside, I found myself surrounded by an amazing variety of fascinating wooden toys.

Business must have been good for, since the day of my "discovery," the Lapp family has transformed to a second generation of toy makers at a second, larger facility much easier to find at 2220 Horseshoe Road. The address is "Lancaster," but the store is unmistakably still deep in Amish Country, north of Smoketown.

After that first visit, I started to collect marble rollers. At Lapp's your eyes will scan quite a variety, each one more fascinating than the next, including a roller that is over three feet high! The marble traverses down the ramps, rings a bell, goes down a flight of steps into a spiral, and is directed one of two ways before reaching the bottom!

You'll also find a variety of smaller wooden toys and animals. Everything is made of wood right on site by Amish craftsmen, all without electricity. Among the over 100 wooden toys made here, they are known for "clip clop" toys that make unique wooden sound so reassuring in our digital age of beeps and bings. There are trucks, trains, a Noah's Ark, a barn filled with animals, pull toys, puzzles, and games.

A visit to Lapp's will expand your vision of "wooden toys." For example, they are known for their stunning selection of children's furniture and playsets...cabinets, sinks, refrigerators, tables and chairs... all made of wood in 12 different colors, and scaled down in various sizes. The shop is normally open Monday through Saturday (717-945-5366). Although you can get an idea of the selection at www.LappsToys.com, there is nothing quite like visiting the place where everything is made. It will be difficult to resist playing with the marble rollers, but the shopkeepers are used to it, so go for it! 🐾



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Amish Visit-in-Person Heritage Tour Schedule Expands

Special to AMISH COUNTRY NEWS

It's a first rate problem! That's what the management at the Amish Experience concluded when there were demands for a daytime version of its evening Amish Visit-in-Person Tour, a once-a-day excursion restricted to 14 guests per tour. The "Amish V.I.P. Tour" provides an intimate, interactive experience directly with the Amish. Introduced experimentally in 2008 and greeted enthusiastically, the tour has continued to grow in demand and popularity. Some visitors actually take the tour multiple times so they can meet different Amish that might be included on any given tour night.

Limited to 14 people to assure a very special personal experience, for the first time in 2016, the Monday through Saturday tour has been expanded to include two daytime offerings July through Labor Day. Departure times for the daytime tours are 10:30 and 2:30. The traditional twilight tours will continue as always at 5:00 and are currently running through the end of October.



The tour highlights three aspects of Amish life --- on the farm, at work, and at home --- all within the span of three hours. But before this tour could be expanded, so did the number of "hosts," and with three stops per tour that meant a lot of additional Amish involvement.

"Over the past winter, our guide force supervisor spent several weeks traveling the backroads in search of new stops for the added tour times. There is a huge investment in time and resources to find Amish willing to receive visitors, and for us to meet personally with each family," says Brad Igou, president of the Amish Experience. "I don't think most people realize how much work is involved in planning and executing the tour with the dozens of

potentially different routes and stops. It's not surprising that we are the only tour operator to offer this experience."

The first stop is at an Amish farm at milking time, where an Amish dairyman explains how the cows are milked and the milk chilled in the bulk tank, all without electricity. He also shares other details of the daily chores involved with farming Amish-style.

The second stop highlights an Amish "cottage industry." Fewer than half the Amish in Lancaster County are farmers and most Amish earn a living other than on the farm. A different "industry" is featured on each tour and may include a furniture maker, greenhouse, woodworker, harness shop, basket weaver, leather worker, or even a carriage maker, to name but a few. In some cases, there are demonstrations of the proprietor's craft.

The third VIP stop is the simplest, and often the most meaningful. For the Amish, to "visit" is simply to sit and chat for a while in someone's home, and that's exactly what happens when the group pulls up the lane to an Amish homestead. Guests enter somewhat reluctantly and, while conversation with strangers may be hesitant at first, by the end of the time spent together it is often difficult to pull guests away. Some visitors have even become friends with their Amish hosts, exchanging Christmas cards, recipes, and letters.

Igou summed up the experience. "We are honored to have received the Heritage Tour designation which recognizes what visitors on this tour have discovered. This is not about re-creating another culture, visiting a replica Amish farm, or having people dress up and impersonate characters. This is meeting real people, one-on-one, where they live and work. For the Amish, simplicity

is often the key. And this tour is simply about people getting to know each other as they discover and learn to respect their differences. The stunning backdrop of the Amish farmlands is just icing on the cake."

Tours depart from the Amish Experience Theater at Plain & Fancy Farm, Route 340, between Bird-in-Hand and Intercourse. Prices are \$61.95 for adults and \$41.95 for children 6-16. The tour is restricted to children age six and above. Advance reservations are strongly recommended. Tickets may be purchased in advance at the Amish Experience Theater, or with Visa or MasterCard by phone 717-768.8400, ext. 210, or go online to www.amishexperience.com for exclusive discounted price and no service fee! 

The AMISH EXPERIENCE VIP TOUR has received the Trip Advisor Hall of Fame Certificate of Excellence Award and is the ONLY tour designated as an Official Heritage Tour by Lancaster County, through its Planning Commission. The Commission administers a nationally acclaimed Heritage Program, which designates sites and even artisans as being authentic representations of aspects of local culture. Designation is through a rigorous process that includes interpretive and authenticity requirements, as well as being "visitor ready."



WELCOME TO OUR PARADISE

Gish's Furniture Stands By Their Reputation

By Clinton Martin

On a recent summer day, a visitor who'd stopped by various Amish furniture purveyors asked the folks at Gish's to prove that their solid hardwood Amish-made furniture could stand up to years of daily use.

Joshua Gish was happy to oblige, and hopped up on a nearby table to prove a point. He perched comfortably on the leaf extending out from the side of the table to the amazement of his would-be customer, while nary a creak or snap was heard.

However, this is not a recommended use for one of the beautifully crafted tables at Gish's Furniture! Far more advisable would be to weigh down a Gish's table in your own home with a big spread of food and drink

with friends and family, a much lighter burden to place on the skillfully hewn ash, oak, pine, or other gorgeous wood that fits best with your décor.

Amish furniture is made, you guessed it, anywhere you find Amish. It seems you'll find wood shops, workshops, saws and nails in virtually every corner of the country where Amish reside. But as you would also expect, not every Amish furniture maker is of the same talent. The fact is that some Amish craftsmen simply have that next-level knack for creating truly inspiring designs. Gish's doesn't showcase furniture from just any Amish wood worker since they source their selection from only a very few of PA and Ohio's most skilled Amish craftsmen.

It's why Joshua Gish didn't come tumbling down, and neither will your tumblers of punch at your next party. No matter where you are in Amish Country, Gish's Furniture isn't far away with three locations --- 2191 Lincoln Highway East Lancaster, PA 17602, 717.392.6080; 1352 Main Street, East Earl, (at Shady Maple) 717.354.2329; and 3424 Simpson

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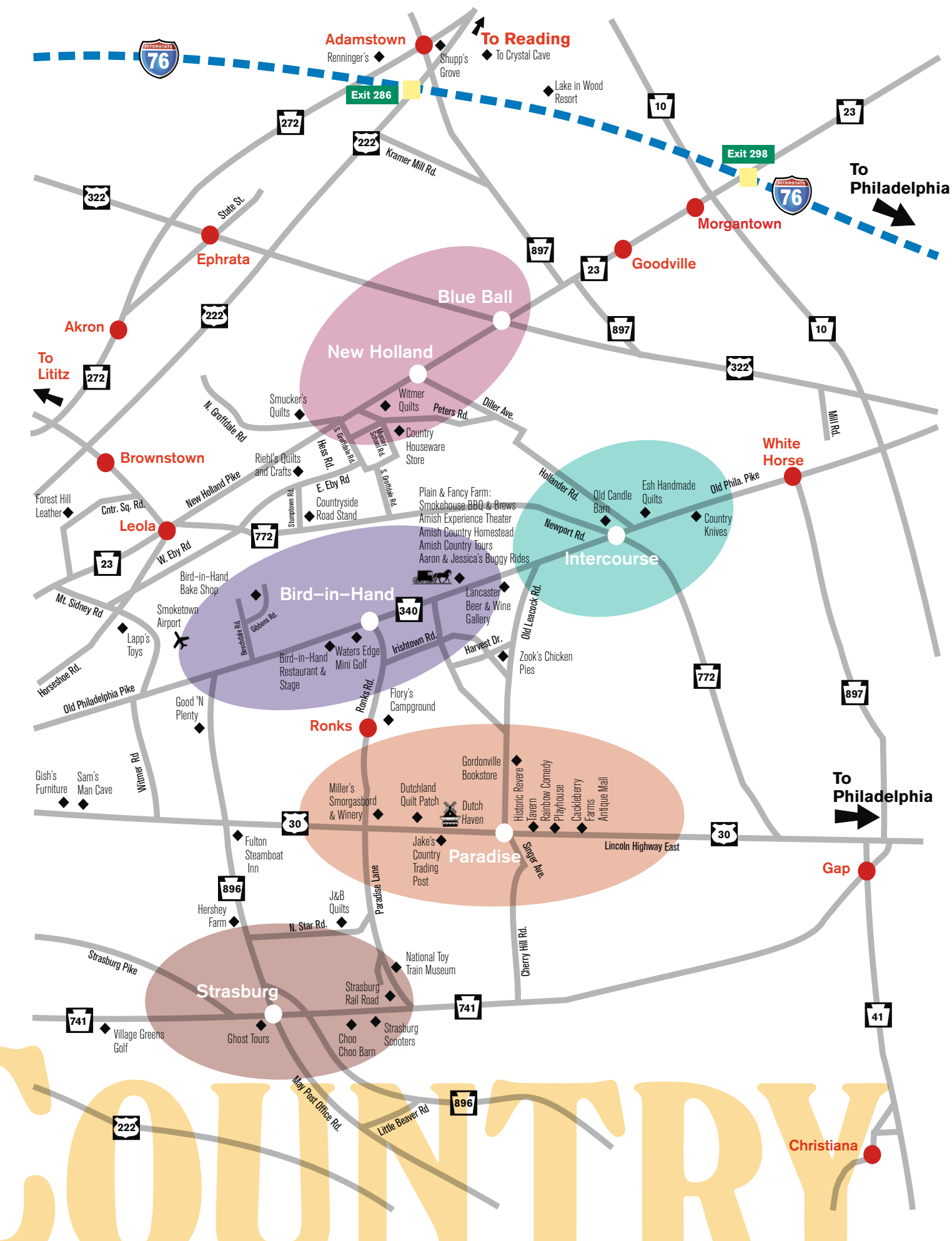


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PUBLISHER'S MESSAGE



Amish Surfers

By Brad Igou

Well over ten years ago, I used to visit an Amish friend about once a week. We'd talk about a lot of different things. But almost every week, something having to do with the internet would come up, even though it was relatively "new" back then. People would find my name under "Amish Country News" when they did a search. Here were a few examples of the requests...

A man was looking for some Amish to build a log house or a barn. A woman wanted to join the Amish because her husband had left her. Someone else was researching their genealogy and thought they might have Amish background. A lady wanted a recipe for "Friendship Bread." Another person needed the dates of upcoming "mud sales." Others wanted to live on an Amish farm. Some asked to advertise in *Amish Country News* because they thought we were an Amish newspaper and they were selling land, or livestock, or a health product. (Interesting, all these years later, I get the same questions.)

Back then, I tried to explain the internet to my elderly Amish friend. I never knew how much of this he really understood, but he always seemed to enjoy talking about it.

Then one day, I popped the question, "Would you like to go to the office sometime and see how it works?" He answered affirmatively. So one night I picked him up in my car and we went to my office after everyone had gone home.

After I signed on and explained the wonderful world of screen names (no, you have

no idea who you might be talking to), and passwords (don't give yours out), we were online. Since he was interested in genealogies and family histories, we typed in his last name to see what we could find. I showed him how email worked. I tried to do some "instant messaging," and we may have paid a quick visit to a chat room.

Then I went to Google and typed in "Amish." Of course, zillions of things came up. He was amazed. We found sites dedicated to Amish furniture and quilts, recipes, tourism, general information on the Amish and their faith, even "Amish humor and satire." Since then, of course, a lot of other things show up, such as "Amish Mafia," or Amish teens with Facebook pages.

After our short surfing session, we returned to his house to chat as we always did. At one point he half-jokingly asked, "You should type in Amish and Mennonite and Lutheran and see who gets the most results." I laughed, knowing he had thrown in the Lutherans because of my background.

Sometime later, I was thinking about all of this, and I wondered what the answer to his question would be. So I went to Google and typed in "Amish." The year was 2005, and I received 2,590,000 "results." Next I tried "Mennonite" and received 1,530,000. Finally, I went with "Lutheran" and came up with 6,470,000.

Now here it is the year 2018. When I stumbled upon my notes from back then I decided to try the same searches again. This time when I "googled" the word "Amish" there were 55,800,000 results. "Mennonite" got 10,200,000. I was pleased to see "Lutheran" still had a comfortable lead of 241,000,000.

In 2005, my curiosity got the best of me and I typed "Amish" in the "image search" of Google. About 50,000 items came up, and I really didn't have time to get too far. I must say that this photo titled "Amish Airlines" caught my eye, so I am sharing it with you today.

Obviously, our fascination for "things Amish" has not diminished.

David Zercher-Weaver wrote an excellent book titled *THE AMISH IN THE AMERICAN IMAGINATION*. It looks at how we have reacted to and interpreted the Amish, and what that says about mainstream American culture. After my short time surfing again today, I am even more convinced he will need to write a second volume, dedicated just to the internet!



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Amish Country Summer STARTS HERE!

CUSTOM PRIVATE RIDES



For a truly unique experience, book your own private reserved tour, with your own Amish driver, horse and buggy. Our guests call it "an unforgettable experience!" Call or email for info.

* Available Monday to Saturday, advanced reservations and pre-payment required.

Tour With Us and Have a Chance to Win



Visit a Real Amish Farm. Get Off the Buggy and See the Cows and Clydesdale-Type Work Horses.

We Absolutely Offer You More!

Visit us first. Here's what you can see on your ride.

- Amish Schools • Amish Farm Stands • Amish Hat Shop
- Quilt Shops • Amish Buggy Factory • Furniture Shops

\$2.00 OFF
TOWN TOUR
\$3.00 OFF
AMISH FARM TOUR

ADULT FARES ONLY. Coupon must be given at time of ride. Discount coupon and movie offer while supplies last and not usable with other offers. All riders must take the same tour. Expires 8/5/18.

Located in the country at Plain & Fancy Farm midway between Bird-in-Hand and Intercourse 3121 Old Philadelphia Pike Ronks PA 17572

For More Info or Group Tours of 10 or More Call

717.723.0478
AmishBuggyRides.com

SPECIAL TICKET GIVEAWAY

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

MENTION THIS AD and with each buggy ride admission, you'll receive A **FREE MOVIE TICKET** for the Amish Experience Multi-media Movie "Jacob's Choice" (\$12.95 | \$8.95 value). Shows are held right next door to our rides at Amish Experience on the hour. See AmishExperience.com for movie info.



(Note some loud sounds may be frightening for young children.)

RIDES & PRICES

The Cookie Run

Adults \$10 Children \$6

A 20 to 25 minute ride through Amish farms with a brief stop at a farm stand. Your opportunity to purchase home-made cookies, root beer, pretzels and lemonade. Get a taste of real Amish life. Available Monday thru Saturday. (See *The Sunday Ride* below.)



Amish Town Tour Adults \$15 Children \$8

A 30 to 35 minute tour passing a cluster of Amish businesses in an all Amish farm area. Experience real Amish life. Available Monday thru Saturday. (See *The Sunday Ride* below.)

TWO GREAT FARM TOURS!

Amish Farm Tour Adults \$22 Children \$12

A 50 to 60 minute ride to Lancaster's best - - real Amish working dairy farm. Tour the barn, see the cows and big draft horses. Optional homemade drinks and baked goods available. Customer preferred ride. Available Monday thru Saturday. (See *The Sunday Ride* below.)

Quilts & Crafts Farm Tour Adults \$25 Children \$13

One hour and 20 minutes. Tour our beautiful Amish countryside and stop to browse at an Amish owned quilt and craft shop at their farm. Available Monday thru Saturday. (See *The Sunday Ride* below.)

The Sunday Ride Adults \$16 Children \$8

This 30 to 35 minute tour is the only ride available on Sundays. The Sunday Ride is a lovely tour through an all Amish area. There are no stops on this ride due to the Amish's observance of the Sabbath.

Amish Journey Private Rides

Longer tours by reservation only in your own private Amish buggy from 1 to 2 hours. (See box on upper left of ad.) Please call or write for complete descriptions and pricing. An unforgettable customized experience!

Email Us For Details: amishbuggyrides@gmail.com

No Reservation Needed | Open 7 Days a Week

Open Year 'Round

Summer Hours: Mon.-Sat. 9AM - 6:30PM Sun. 10AM-4:30PM

Children Rate 12 years and Under. | Under 3 Free.